

Message Text

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14

ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 AID-05 CIAE-00 COME-00 FRB-03

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AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

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AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

AMEMBASSY SOFIA

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: BEXP, PL

SUBJECT: FIFTH SESSION OF THE AMERICAN-POLISH JOINT TRADE
COMMISSION

1. BEGIN SUMMARY: THE FIFTH SESSION OF THE JOINT AMERICAN-POLISH TRADE COMMISSION CONCLUDED OCTOBER 8, FOLLOWING TWO DAYS OF DISCUSSIONS DEVOTED TO PROGRESS, OPPORTUNITIES, AND PROBLEMS IN US-POLISH TRADE. THE CHAIRMEN OF THE TWO DELEGATIONS, US SECRETARY OF COMMERCE ROGERS C. B. MORTON AND POLISH VICE PREMIER KAZIMIERZ OLSZEWSKI, EXPRESSED SATISFACTION WITH THE GROWTH IN BILATERAL TRADE, AND AGREED THAT THE GOAL OF ONE BILLION DOLLARS IN TWO-WAY TRADE BY
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1976, A TARGET SET DURING THE VISIT OF FIRST SECRETARY GIEREK

TO THE US LAST YEAR, SHOULD BE ATTAINED. THE POLISH SIDE DREW ATTENTION TO THE IMBALANCE IN OUR TRADE DEVELOPMENT, HOWEVER, AND EXPRESSED CONCERN THAT CERTAIN PROVISIONS OF THE UNITED STATES TRADE ACT MAY HINDER THE EXPANSION OF POLAND'S EXPORTS TO THE US. THE AGRICULTURAL SPOKESMEN FOR THE POLISH DELEGATION MADE KNOWN THEIR DISAPPOINTMENT WITH THE TEMPORARY SUSPENSION OF US GRAIN SALES AND RESTATED THEIR INTEREST IN ADDITIONAL PURCHASES FOR 1975-76 AND IN A LONG-TERM SUPPLY ARRANGEMENT. END SUMMARY.

2. THE POLES OFFERED A BRIEF GLIMPSE OF THEIR ECONOMIC PRIORITIES FOR THE NEXT FIVE-YEAR PERIOD, WHICH CALL FOR A "SLIGHT" CUT IN THE INVESTMENT RATE, CHIEFLY THROUGH REDUCED INVESTMENTS IN INFRASTRUCTURE, AND MORE VIGOROUS EFFORTS TO EXPAND EXPORTS FASTER THAN IMPORTS WHILE CONTINUING THE EMPHASIS ON GROWTH THROUGH PURCHASES OF WESTERN TECHNOLOGY IMPORTS. A COMPREHENSIVE LIST OF PRIORITY AREAS FOR COMMERCIAL AND TECHNOLOGICAL COOPERATION BETWEEN THE U.S. AND POLAND WAS PROVIDED BY THE POLISH DELEGATION, SEVERAL OF THE TOPICS ON THIS LIST HAVE BEEN RAISED IN THE PAST, SOME IN THE CONTEXT OF SIMILAR MEETINGS WITH WESTERN EUROPEAN DELEGATIONS, BUT THE PROJECTS NEVERTHELESS OFFER EXCELLENT OPPORTUNITIES FOR US FIRMS.

3. THE POLES GAVE MORE ATTENTION ON THIS OCCASION THAN DURING ANY PREVIOUS DISCUSSIONS TO THE IMPACT ON STATE-TRADING COUNTRIES OF US FEDERAL AND STATE LEGAL LENDING LIMITS. IN THEIR VIEW, THESE REGULATIONS, WHICH TREAT POLISH LOANS AS THOSE OF A SINGLE BORROWER, UNDULY RESTRICT FINANCING FOR POLAND'S CAPITAL-GOODS PURCHASES FRTH THE US. THE US DELEGATION EXPLAINED THAT THESE LIMITS APPLY TO ALL LOANS TO ANY BORROWER AND ARE UNLIKELY TO CHANGE.

4. NO NEW ISSUES WERE RAISED DURING DISCUSSIONS OF BUSINESS FACILITIES EXTENDED TO US FIRMS IN POLAND, AND SOME PROGRESS WAS NOTED ON A NUMBER OF PROBLEMS RAISED IN EARLIER SESSIONS. IN RESPONSE TO INQUIRIES FROM THE US DELEGATION, THE POLES POINTED OUT THAT OFFICE LICENSES ARE NOW VALID FOR TWO YEARS, SUBJECT ONLY TO THE REQUIRE-LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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MENT THAT REPORTS AND FEES BE RENDERED ANNUALLY. THEY ALSO EXPLAINED THAT US FIRMS LICENSED TO OPERATE IN POLAND MAY APPLY TO BANK NARODOWY FOR THE RIGHT TO SELL PRODUCTS AND SERVICES FOR LOCAL CURRENCY. LOCAL EARNINGS CAN BE USED FOR ALL LOCAL EXPENSES EXCEPT THOSE WHICH RESULT FROM HARD-CURRENCY-FINANCED ITEMS. THE POLISH DELEGATION HAS AGREED TO PROVIDE ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ON REGULATIONS GOVERNING LOCAL CURRENCY SALES AND THE USES OF THEIR

PROCEEDS. OUR DISCUSSIONS PRODUCED NO CHANGE IN CURRENT POLISH POLICY ON EXIT-VISA FEES FOR POLISH NATIONALS. THE POLISH SIDE MAINTAINS THAT ALL POLISH CITIZENS WHO TRAVEL ABROAD ARE REQUIRED TO PAY THE EXIT-VISA FEE AND NO EXCEPTIONS ARE POSSIBLE. THE POLES STATED THAT THEY ARE ISSUING MULTIPLE-ENTRY VISAS TO BUSINESSMEN AND THEIR FAMILIES WHO TRAVEL TO POLAND TO WORK IN US TRADE, TECHNICAL, AND INDUSTRIAL OFFICES, AS WELL AS TO THOSE WHO COME TO POLAND ON FREQUENT BUSINESS VISITS.

5. THE WORKING GROUP ON TRADE RELATIONS AND INDUSTRIAL AND TECHNICAL COOPERATION DISCUSSED AT LENGTH THE IMPLICATIONS FOR POLISH EXPORTS TO THE US OF THE US TRADE ACT OF 1974. THE US MEMBERS OF THE WORKING GROUP SUGGESTED A NUMBER OF MEASURES WHICH COULD HELP POLISH EXPORTERS AVOID ADMINISTRATIVE DIFFICULTIES IN EXPORTING TO THE UNITED STATES WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF THE ACT. BOTH SIDES AGREED ON THE ADVISABILITY OF EARLY CONSULTATIONS IN THE EVENT PROBLEMS ARISE.

6. AS EXPECTED, THE POLES TRIED TO GET SOME SORT OF COMMITMENT ON GIVING LOT ACCESS TO CHICAGO, BUT THE US DELEGATION RESISTED THESE EFFORTS.

7. THE JOINT WORKING GROUP ON AGRICULTURAL COMMODITIES TRADE DISCUSSED THE FOLLOWING ISSUES:

A. ADDITIONAL PURCHASES OF GRAIN IN 1975-76 BY POLAND FROM THE UNITED STATES;

B. A LONG-TERM ARRANGEMENT FOR PURCHASES OF US GRAIN BY POLAND FOR THE NEXT FIVE YEARS;

C. THE AVAILABILITY OF ADDITIONAL CCC CREDITS FOR POLAND;
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D. THE CONCLUSION OF A VETERINARY CONVENTION BETWEEN POLAND AND THE US;

E. POLAND'S REQUEST FOR ADDITIONAL EXPORTS OF CHEESE TO THE US;

F. THE EXCHANGE OF ECONOMIC INFORMATION.

8. THE AGREED MINUTES OF THE FIFTH SESSION HAVE BEEN CARRIED TO WASHINGTON BY THE DELEGATION, AND THE DETAILS OF THE AGRICULTURAL DISCUSSIONS HAVE BEEN REPORTED IN WARSAW 6666.

DAVIES

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